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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Political Information: The Union of Middle  
 Political Parties

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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1. The formation of the Union of Middle Political Parties was announced on 21 February 1947 when the leaders of the Chinese Free Mason Democratic Party (洪門民治黨), the National Liberal Party (國民自由黨), and the Livelihood Betterment Party (民生改進黨) met in Shanghai. A fourth party, the Central Harmony Party (also known as the Moderate or Chung Ho Party 中合黨), later joined the Union. Chairmen of the four parties are SSU-TU Mei-tang (司徒美堂), Dr. LIN Tung-hai (林東海), ex-general FAN Sung-fu (樊崧甫), and YU Yung-chang (尤永昌), respectively.

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2. General FAN Sung-fu, who retired after the war with the Japanese, is said to have established the People's Livelihood Promotion Party in Changsha on 1 January 1938. His party consists of members of the Ching Pang (青幫), Hung Pang (洪幫), Li Men (理門), Mohammedan, and various other secret societies.

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3. The National Liberal Party is the newest of the four parties. Already with more than 40,000 members, mostly professors, professional men, bankers, writers, etc., it is gradually increasing in size. It has branches in Nanking, Chungking, Changsha, Hankow, Peiping, and Tientsin; and two more branches are being organized in Shanghai and Canton. While the Shanghai branch is expecting 10,000 members, there is little activity in Canton, where the only representative is WU Fu-kun (伍福焜), a recently elected member of the Central Executive Committee.

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4. It is said that LO Wen-kan (羅文幹), the late Minister of Justice, and LIN Tung-hai, former Dean of the College of Law, University of Kwangsi, and present Central Executive Committee member, were the founders of the China People's Liberal Party (National Liberal Party).

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5. The Secretary-General of the Union of Middle Political Parties is CHAO Ping (趙平), a graduate of Columbia University Law School and later a student at Oxford, who qualified as a British barrister-at-law. In 1926 CHAO began working for the Ministry of Railways as a counsellor. Later he cooperated with WU Fu-kun, also a counsellor in the Ministry, to form the Canton Daily Sun, an English language publication. In 1930 CHAO became a judge in Hunan, and in 1933, a judge in Amoy. Later in the same year, when Eugene CHEN was induced to join the People's Government in Foochow, CHAO acted as CHEN's representative. He has been on the faculties of Kwangsi University and Hunan University where he taught in the English Department and dabbled in politics. At present he is a faculty member of the National University of Political Science in Nanking. As a college student, CHAO was something of a playboy. He married an English cabaret worker who accompanied him to China, but she eventually left him and returned to England. He later married a Chinese woman fifteen years his junior; their only daughter died during the war.

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6. The platform of the Union of Middle Political Parties is as follows:

- a. Peaceful unification of China
- b. Opposition to the securing of political power by armed force
- c. Abolition of the one party system
- d. Improvement of existing conditions
- e. A true democracy as the basis for a competent and stable government
- f. Guarantee of the people's livelihood as the basis of China's domestic policy by:
  - (1) Bringing the Civil War to an end
  - (2) Adopting a new monetary system, and a new economic as well as financial policy
- g. Careful formation of an interim government during the transitional period in order to lay a solid foundation for the future constitutional government.
- h. Holding of an enlarged political conference in which all political parties should participate, with a view to a proper solution of all domestic problems
- i. International cooperation and active diplomacy as the basis of the foreign policy
- j. Opposition to international intervention in China's domestic dispute

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